

Appl. No. 10/008,452
Amendment dated October 14, 2004
Reply to Office Action of July 14, 2004

Amendments to the Claims: This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling an intelligent device through an Instant Messaging (IM) protocol over a communication network, the method comprising the steps of:
coupling the intelligent device having a first IM client to a control station having a second IM client using the communication network and an Instant Messaging (IM) protocol;
adding the intelligent device to an IM "buddy" list in the control station, the IM "buddy" list allowing the control station access to the intelligent device; and
controlling the intelligent device from the control station by sending the intelligent device an instant message from the control station, the instant message comprising a command.
2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of identifying a status of the intelligent device to the control station by sending from the intelligent device to the control station a selected one of a plurality of IM "presence" indications.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
creating an IM user list and an access control list corresponding to the intelligent device and to a user; and
providing control of the intelligent device by the user in accordance with the access control list.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of authenticating at least one of a user, a server, and a proxy when sending and receiving an instant message.

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5. (Currently Amended) An intelligent device arranged for control through an Instant Messaging (IM) protocol over a communication network by a control station having a first IM client installed therein and having ~~the intelligent device in an IM "buddy" list of the control station,~~ the intelligent device comprising:

a communication port for coupling the intelligent device to the communication network;

and

a processor coupled to the communication port for controlling the intelligent device, wherein the processor is programmed with a second IM client arranged to allow the intelligent device to be controlled from the control station through receiving an instant message from the control station, the instant message comprising a command, the intelligent device controllable from the control station only when an IM "buddy" list of the control station includes the intelligent device.

6. (Currently Amended) The intelligent device of claim 5, wherein the processor is further programmed to identify a status of the intelligent device to the control station by sending from the intelligent device to the control station a selected one of a plurality of IM "presence" indications.

7. (Original) The intelligent device of claim 5, wherein the processor is further programmed to authenticate at least one of a server and a proxy when receiving an instant message.

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8. (Original) An intermediate controller for controlling an intelligent device through an Instant Messaging (IM) protocol over a communication network, the intermediate controller comprising:

a processor; and

a communication port coupled to the processor for communicating with the intelligent device through the communication network,

wherein the processor is programmed to:

create an IM user list and an access control list corresponding to the intelligent device and to a user; and

provide IM control of the intelligent device by the user in accordance with the access control list.

9. (Original) The intermediate controller of claim 8, wherein the processor is further programmed to serve as an IM server.

10. (Original) The intermediate controller of claim 8, wherein the processor is further programmed to serve as a wireless network proxy.

11. (Original) The intermediate controller of claim 8, wherein the processor is further programmed to authenticate the user when receiving an instant message for the intelligent device.

12. (Original) The intermediate controller of claim 8, wherein the processor is further programmed to authenticate the intelligent device when receiving an IM "presence" indication from the intelligent device.

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13. (Currently Amended) A control station for controlling an intelligent device through an Instant Messaging (IM) protocol over a communication network, the intelligent device having a first IM client installed therein, the control station comprising:

a communication port for coupling the control station to the communication network;

a processor coupled to the communication port for directing operations of the control station, and

a user interface coupled to the processor for interfacing with a user;

wherein the processor is programmed with a second IM client for controlling the intelligent device by sending the intelligent device an instant message comprising a command, the controlling occurring only when an IM "buddy" list for the control station includes the intelligent device.

14. (Currently Amended) The control station of claim 13, wherein the processor is further programmed to identify a status of the intelligent device by receiving from the intelligent device a selected one of a plurality of IM "presence" indications.

15. (Original) The control station of claim 13, wherein the processor is further programmed to authenticate at least one of a server and a proxy when receiving an IM "presence" indication.
